

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, OVIP (GUNDELACH, FINN)

SUBJECT: GUNDELACH VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: MTN GENEVA 4627

1. IN A JUNE 20 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR GREENWALD, GUNDELACH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS (SUPPLEMENTARY TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) ABOUT HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 24-25.

2. STANDARDS

THIS IS THE SUBJECT ON WHICH GUNDELACH HOPES SOME REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE. HE IS TAKING ALONG EC EXPERT SCHLOSSER WHO HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MEMBER STATES, SO THAT THERE CAN BE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES RAISED IN PARA 4 REFTEL. GUNDELACH THINKS SEPARATE EXPERT-LEVEL MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD.

3. GATT TREATMENT OF LOME CONVENTION

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GUNDELACH BELIEVES THE EC AND ACP COUNTRIES ARE LINED UP

FOR GATT HANDLING, AND HE CONSIDERS THE MAIN ISSUE NOW IS THE TACTICAL PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH OTHER LDCS, PARTICULARLY LATIN AMERICANS.

4. LDCS AND RAW MATERIALS

GUNDELACH HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE COMMISSION WITH SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THE US POSITION RE THE UP-COMING COMPLEX OF MEETINGS INVOLVING LDC ISSUES. AS FAR AS THE EC IS CONCERNED, THESE MATTERS WILL BE DEALT WITH MAINLY OUTSIDE THE GATT FRAMEWORK. GUNDELACH WILL HAVE NO VIEWS TO PRESENT BEYOND THE COMMISSION PAPERS REPORTED IN EC BRUSSELS 5310, 5315, 5317 AND 5320. HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT US POSITIONS BASED ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S KANSAS CITY, IEA AND OECD SPEECHES. HE WILL ALSO SEEK USG REACTIONS TO THE COMMISSION PAPERS ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND OTHER LDC ISSUES. THIS GENERAL SUBJECT WILL BE A MAJOR ITEM AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING JULY 16-17 AND COMMISSION HOPES TO HAVE US COMMENTS AVAILABLE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN PREPARING FOR THIS MEETING.

5. MTN SCENARIO

IN RESPONSE TO US PROPOSALS FOR "HARVESTING MILESTONES", GUNDELACH WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS STRONG EC PREFERENCE FOR TALKING ABOUT PRIORITIES WITHOUT SPECIFIC DATES FOR REACHING AGREEMENT. ON THE QUESTION OF AN MTN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE FALL, GUNDELACH WILL BE NEGATIVE. HE DOESN'T THINK ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN AT A MINISTERIAL MEETING OF 80 COUNTRIES EXCEPT SET SPEECHES. HIS PREFERENCE IS TO TRY TO ARRANGE SMALLER MEETINGS OF KEY MINISTERS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WHEN THEY ARE RIPE FOR DECISION.

6. GATT REFORM

GUNDELACH WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT BUT DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE IT HIMSELF AT THIS STAGE.

7. COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

GUNDELACH IS AWARE THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY BEFORE THE JULY 4 DEADLINE TO EXPRESS THE STRONG COMMISSION VIEWS ON CANNED HAM AND FLOAT GLASS AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE USG.

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8. RULES OF ORIGIN

GUNDELACH CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT HIS PIECEMEAL APPROACH IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE AND EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH RULES OF ORIGIN DIFFICULTIES. HE SUPPORTS THE EFTA PROPOSALS BUT IS CONVINCED THEY HAVE NO CHANCE OF ADOPTION AT THIS TIME. MOREOVER, EXPERIENCE RECENTLY HAS INDICATED THAT IF EFFORTS TO MAKE BASIC CHANGES IN RULES OF ORIGIN

ARE PURSUED, RESISTANCE OF COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE TO ANY CHANGES WILL INCREASE AND THUS UNDERMINE EVEN THE MORE MODEST PIECEMEAL METHOD.

9. INFLATION INSURANCE SCHEMES

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ABBOTT, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY GUNDELACH, SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE US POSITION ON THE INFLATION INSURANCE SCHEMES OF THE UK, FRANCE, AND ITALY. (ABBOTT SAYS THAT HOT PURSUIT OF THESE SCHEMES BY THE US WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMISSION TO SEEK TO DEAL WITH THEM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK.) GREENWALD

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